

**To:** Hague, Mark[Hague.Mark@epa.gov]  
**From:** Fritz, Matthew  
**Sent:** Thur 11/19/2015 4:59:14 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Landfill Update and Media Events

Mark,

Thank you for the update.

I presume we will characterize the nature and degree of radiological contamination in this particular landfill – and what it means.

I sounds like we will be able to come back to everyone soon – now that we have this data – and put forth a remedy/engineered solution to help completely isolate one landfill from the other – thereby addressing concerns of a release as a result of the “fire” migrating into the other landfill.

Help me with taking EPA out of the equation: is there a sense that COE is best equipped to manage this type of facility; it is because folks are not feeling great about EPA’s role here; a combination of these and many other factors?

**From:** Hague, Mark  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2015 11:49 AM  
**To:** Fritz, Matthew <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Landfill Update and Media Events

Matt

I want to loop back with you on the Press/Media event we are working on for next Tuesday in St. Louis to provide the public an update on our work at the West Lake site.

Our plan for next Tuesday is to hold a press conference that the MO Attorney General will participate in.

EPA will announce two items:

1. We have determined the extent of the radiological contamination at the site. This is a key data point for us that will inform our decision on location and the type of engineering controls (aka barrier) we will direct the RPs to install to provide a separation from the so called "fire" in the solid waste landfill under state oversight. We committed to the public we would release that data once we completed our review. The state has an interest in this data since they have orders to the landfill operators to put more controls in place. We expect the AG to say something to the effect that this is an example of the kind of decisions he has called on EPA to make.
2. To follow up on the small grass fire several weeks ago we also plan to announce that we've issued an order to the RPs to submit to EPA a fire management plan to better prevent and prepare for potential surface fires like the one we had a couple of weeks ago.

We think this will give the community added assurances that we are taking action. In talking with several local public officials yesterday in St. Louis they felt these messages will be well received by the community.

Yesterday, I, along with representatives from the State of Missouri, County Health, County Emergency Management, Local

First Responders/Fire Department and local school superintendent met with close to 200 local business owners around the site. The Mayor of Bridgeton invited us to participate at the luncheon. This is one of several events I or staff from the region have attended in the past couple of weeks. We continued to convey our message that there are no imminent risks to residents around the West Lake site from the radiological contamination. After that meeting I also met with one of the local school superintendent and his senior leadership on our work at the site.

We continue to work with the Missouri Attorney General and DNR to get all our actions more closely aligned and to present a unified front on our combined efforts at the site.

We are working towards announcing a decision in mid- December on underground fire separation controls we'll direct PRPs to put in place at the site. That December press event is also envisioned to be a joint announcement by EPA and the State (AG).

My PAD is in communication with Liz, Nancy and Nichole as we prepare for next Tuesday and then the December announcement.

We are also reaching out to Mathy early next week on the underground fire controls decisions. We've had the COE and ORD providing us with technical evaluations and guidance.

Hope this helps. Let me know if you want to discuss this in more detail.

On a related note, we understand Missouri Senators McCaskill and Blunt will introduce a bill today that would move the site from EPA to the DOD/COE and have it included in the FUSRAP clean-up program. Voices in the community have been calling to have this site moved to the COE for a long time.

Meanwhile, we will continue our work and proceed to get decisions made to move our EPA efforts forward.

Thanks.

Mark

#### **Officials reassure Bridgeton businesses on West Lake Landfill**

[http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/officials-reassure-bridgeton-businesses-on-west-lake-landfill/article\\_02af485d-9f5c-5234-b76e-8af2a4a32d31.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/officials-reassure-bridgeton-businesses-on-west-lake-landfill/article_02af485d-9f5c-5234-b76e-8af2a4a32d31.html)

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